

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGRE-00 EB-07 COME-00

OMB-01 TRSE-00 STR-04 CIEP-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /087 W

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R 090153Z DEC 76

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3004

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

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FOR AGRICULTURE, FAS, FCA, GRAIN AND FEED DIVISION

BUENOS AIRES, OTTAWA AND CANBERRA FOR AGRICULTURAL ATTACHES

FROM: AGRICULTURAL OFFICER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, CH, AR, CA, AS

SUBJECT: ARGENTINE GRAIN TEAM REPORTED IN PEKING

REF: (A) OTTAWA 4831; (B) PEKING 2506; (C) HONG KONG 10401

1. HONG KONG-BASED CHINA TRADER, RECENTLY RETURNED FROM PEKING, INFORMED AGOFFICER THAT ARGENTINE GRAIN MISSION NOW IN PEKING WITH ASSUMED OBJECTIVE OF SELLING WHEAT TO CHINA.

2. COMMENT: WITH ARGENTINA'S HARVEST THIS YEAR ESTIMATED AT RECORD 10 MILLION M.T. AND PROJECTED CARRYOVER AT POSSIBLE ALL-TIME HIGH, ARGENTINA MIGHT WELL BE EXPECTED TO RE-ENTER CHINA WHEAT MARKET IF CHINA CAN USE THE WHEAT. MODEST CHINESE PURCHASES THUS FAR FROM AUSTRALIA AND CANADA FOR DELIVERY IN FIRST HALF CY 1977 (TOTAL OF 1.25 MILLION METRIC TONS) DO NOT INDICATE URGENT NEED FOR ADDITIONAL WHEAT. IN VIEW CHINA'S RECORD WHEAT HARVEST (REF C) AND OUTLOOK

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FOR RECORD TOTAL GRAIN HARVEST THIS YEAR, CHINA'S WHEAT IMPORT

REQUIREMENTS ARE EXPECTED TO BE MINIMAL. HOWEVER, FURTHER PURCHASES CANNOT BE RULED OUT COMPLETELY SO ARGENTINA MAY SELL TO CHINA.

3. (ARGENTINA'S POOR PERFORMANCE UNDER 1974-76 AGREEMENT MAY NOT BE DRAWBACK BECAUSE CHINA DID NOT EXERCISE ITS FULL OPTIONS IN PURCHASING WHEAT FROM EITHER AUSTRALIA OR CANADA DESPITE ARGENTINA'S FAILURE TO MAKE AGREED DELIVERIES.)

4. WE NOTE WITH INTEREST THE DISCREPANCY IN QUANTITY OF CANADIAN WHEAT ORIGINALLY REPORTED BY CANADIANS AS 500,000 TONS (REF B) AND IN CWB ANNOUNCEMENT AS 750,000 LONG TONS (765,035 M.T.)? (REF A).
CROSS

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